Physical Geography // ERTH/GEOG 1030.03 ONLINE DISTANCE // Winter 2020

This non-lab science course examines the nature of weather and climate, Earth's surface features and processes, and internal processes that contribute to landform development. An integral component of the course is an exploration of the representation and interpretation of physical geographic data through the examination of a variety maps.

There are no pre-requisites for this course, and students may take this course in addition to any other first year Earth Science course.

Rationale

Physical geography is a science that pursues a wholistic and spatial understanding of the interconnected systems that form the environment of Earth's surface. This course is a 3-credit hour, non-lab science course that serves as a University-level introduction to the science of physical geography.

This Distance-Online offering is for Dalhousie students who are not in Halifax, and/or require scheduling flexibility, and for students who prefer self-directed and self-paced study.

Course-Level Learning Objectives

- To develop an understanding of, and appreciation for the systems and features of Earth's surface and their impact on humankind. This includes rivers, oceans, deserts, coasts, glaciers and the arctic, erosion and landslides, groundwater, soils, weather and climate.
- To develop basic skills in interpretation of maps and remote sensing images.

Summary of Format and Organization

This online distance offering of ERTH/GEOG 1030 uses Dalhousie's BrightSpace online system and an integrated learning system called MasteringGeography. The course is organized into 13 Content Modules (shown on the Schedule), each with learning outcomes supported by readings, videos, animations. Each Module has a Reading Questions Assignment and a Homework Assignment, the latter more hands-on with many assignments using Google Earth. Assignment questions are short answer, multiple choice, matching etc. As a student, you should move through the Modules in sequence, but your progress can be self-paced as long as all assignments and the final exam are completed by the course end date (shown on the schedule). The final exam is held in Halifax during the regular exam period and you must write it in person. The 3h final exam is multiple choice.

Expectations of Incoming Students

Although there are no university-level prerequisite courses for this course, proficiency in math at a junior highschool level is expected. Grade 11 science, chemistry in particular, is helpful. Students are expected to have knowledge of Earth's regional geography (the location and names of continents, major countries and capitals, oceans and major mountain ranges, etc). These topics are not covered in this class but students are expected to know them, or look them up as needed. The language of instruction is English; students are expected to be proficient in spoken and written English.

Accessing the Course

1. BrightSpace course space for ERTH/GEOG 1030 Distance. BrightSpace is the primary access point for course content, discussion, and instructor contact. You are automatically enrolled in the site

as a registered student. If you find you are not enrolled, or are not familiar with BrightSpace, contact the Help Desk immediately at helpdesk@dal.ca.

2. MasteringGeography Although BrightSpace is the primary access point, course content including the E-textbook and assignments are accessed from the textbook publisher's system called MasteringGeography. The Brightspace site has direct links to the MasteringGeography content. Students in this class must purchase a MasteringGeography access code from the Dalhousie bookstore. Instructions for how to use the code and access MasteringGeography are on the course BrightSpace.

Additional DISTANCE offering information

This Distance course is self-paced (within limits --see below) and assignments may be completed anywhere provided you have stable high-speed internet access and a suitable computer. The course does not have regular lectures, nor videos of such lectures. Course content is provided through an e-text textbook, animations, instructional videos, graphs and figures, coached assignments, and other online learning approaches. Assignments are completed and submitted online. Real-time internet access is required to complete assignments.

This course has equivalent content and workload to the 13week lecture version of ERTH/GEOG1030, a course with a weekly load of ~3h of lecture, a 1h compulsory tutorial, plus the time needed to study readings and complete assignments. Compared to the lecture version, students in this Distance course should expect to spend more time reading and completing independent assignments (but no time in lecture, obviously).

Schedule, due-dates, self-pacing, and late policy

This class is timetabled in a regular Dalhousie semester from Jan 6 to April 6, but each student's progress can be self-paced within limits. The recommended schedule moves a student through the course content at a steady pace, leading to completion by April 6 followed by the final exam. Assignment due-dates have been set according to this schedule. However, there are no penalties for late submissions except for a hard deadline of April 25.

Students who have not completed the course by April 25 will have a course grade calculated over the portion of the course that is completed. Extensions beyond that date will require documented evidence of a serious family or medical emergency.

Instructors

Professor: Dr. Lawrence Plug, ljp@dal.ca. Life Sciences Centre 4613 (Oceanography Wing). Lawrence is a professor at Dalhousie in the department of Earth Sciences and the College of Sustainability. Lawrence has taught the non-distance version of 1030 many times. Lawrence's undergraduate degree is in Physical Geography from McGill University, followed by a PhD in Geophysics at the University of Alaska. Lawrence's research has addressed permafrost responses to climate change, sea-level history, forest ecology, interactions between cosmic rays and forests, and in developing numerical models for cracking and fluid flow through cracks in natural materials ranging from permafrost to groundwater reservoirs.

Teaching Assistant: Sadie Jacobs-Peters, email `s.jacobspeters@dal.ca`

Asking questions, class discussion, instructor contact

Questions and Discussion: Each Content Module has a BrightSpace Discussion forum which you should use to ask questions and discuss content of the module with classmates and instructors. The course professor and TA will monitor the Discussion boards to address questions, but students are

encouraged to provide guidance to other students. Ask questions and help your fellow students! You are encouraged to participate but there is no requirement that you do so – participation does not effect grades.

Participation on the Discussion Boards and Chat must abide by the following norms: no personal attacks and put-downs, no commercial posts. Keep all exchanges on topic, concise, and well-mannered. Helping fellow students learn is great; stating an answer to an assignment question is not. The discussion board is not anonymous. Violations may lead to removal from the class.

Office Hours, asking questions: For content questions and open discussions relevant to everyone in the class, you are encouraged to use the appropriate Discussion Forum. For a private discussion about course content, please email Sadie (our TA) first followed by me (Lawrence) if more help is needed.

For technical issues related to completing assignments, please use MasteringGeography's technical support contacts which are normally available 24h/7 days a week (look for the support links on the assignments).

Evaluation

- Homework Assignments (13; 1 per module): 25%
- Reading Question Assignments (13; 1 per module): 25%
- Final Exam, 3h cumulative: 50%

A pass in the final exam is required to pass the course.

Course letter grades will be assigned according to the default Dalhousie scheme. https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/grades-and-student-records/grade-scale-and-definitions.html

Textbook, Learning Materials

You must buy the course-pack called "Mastering Geography For Geosystems" from the Dalhousie bookstore. This bundle provides electronic access to:

- Electronic Textbook: *Geosystems*, *Fourth Canadian Edition Updated*. Christopherson et al. 2018.
- *Modified Mastering Geography, a*n online learning system from Pearson, the textbook publisher.

Each student must buy their own copy of the course-pack. It cannot be shared between students because your assignments are accessed and submitted through your Mastering Geography account.

For those who already own a hardcopy of the textbook, the bookstore is also selling an unbundled version of MasteringGeography. Only buy this if you already have a textbook.

Final Exam Format

The Final Exam will be held at Dalhousie during the regular exam period. There is no online option. The final exam will be a 3h in duration, and consist of multiple choice questions. A practice exam will be available on BrightSpace in early April.

Computer and Internet Access Requirements

Real-time highspeed internet access is required to access all course materials, including the E-

textbook, assignments, and supplementary course materials such as videos and animations. You cannot download these items to access them later offline.

Many assignments require you to use GoogleEarth. If you don't already have GoogleEarth on your computer, you will need to download and install it. A download link is provided in the assignment.

BrightSpace and MasteringGeography both have computer and browser requirements. Most computers are OK, but check your computer early. To check your system against Mastering Geography's requirements, go here: https://www.pearsonmylabandmastering.com/northamerica/students/mm-support/system-requirements/

Note if you use Linux: MasteringGeography may warn you that it does not support Linux, but in my experience a current version of Linux with up-to-date Firefox or Chrome browser works just fine. A recent Flash plug-in is required, but that applies to Windows and Macs too.

For students outside Canada: Some countries limit internet access which may affect your access to course materials. These issues are not the responsibility of the course instructor, Dalhousie University or the textbook publisher. You are recommended to test your access early, and if there is a problem either find a work-around or drop the course before the drop/add deadline.

Costs for Students

In addition to tuition, students must purchase the bundled E-text + Mastering. Students must also have highspeed constant internet access to complete the course, which may additional pose a cost for some students.

General Learning and Support Resources

- General Academic Support – Advising
  Halifax: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/advising.html
  Truro: https://www.dal.ca/about-dal/agricultural-campus/student-success-centre/academic-support.html
- Fair Dealing Guidelines https://libraries.dal.ca/services/copyright-office/guidelines/fair-dealing-guidelines.html
- Student Health Services http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/health-services.html
- Counselling https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/health-and-wellness/counselling.html
- E-Learning website http://www.dal.ca/dept/elearning.html
- Writing Centre https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/writing-and-study-skills.html
- Studying for Success Program http://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/study-skills-and-tutoring.html

University Policies, Statements, Guidelines

This course is governed by the academic rules and regulations set forth in the University Calendar and the Senate. https://academiccalendar.dal.ca/Catalog/ViewCatalog.aspx?pageid=viewcatalog

- Academic Integrity
  At Dalhousie University, we are guided in all of our work by the values of academic integrity: honesty, trust, fairness, responsibility and respect (*The Center for Academic Integrity, Duke University, 1999*). As a student, you are required to demonstrate these values in all of the work you do. The University provides policies and procedures that every member of the university community is required to follow to ensure academic integrity.
  (read more: http://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/academic-integrity.html)

- Accessibility

The Advising and Access Centre and the Student Success Centre (Agricultural Campus) serve as Dalhousie's centres for expertise on student accessibility and accommodation. Our work is governed by Dalhousie's Student Accommodation Policy to best support the needs of Dalhousie students. Our team work with students who request accommodation as a result of: disability, religious obligation, an experienced barrier related to any other characteristic protected under Canadian Human Rights legislation.
(read more at: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/academic-support/accessibility.html)

- Student Code of Conduct
  Everyone at Dalhousie is expected to treat others with dignity and respect. The Code of Student Conduct allows Dalhousie to take disciplinary action if students don't follow this community expectation. When appropriate, violations of the code can be resolved in a reasonable and informal manner. If an informal resolution can't be reached, or would be inappropriate, procedures exist for formal dispute resolution.
  (read more: https://www.dal.ca/campus_life/safety-respect/student-rights-and-responsibilities/student-life-policies/code-of-student-conduct.html)

- Diversity and Inclusion – Culture of Respect
  Every person at Dalhousie has a right to be respected and safe. We believe inclusiveness is fundamental to education. We stand for equality. Dalhousie is strengthened in our diversity. We are a respectful and inclusive community. We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and supported.
  (read more: http://www.dal.ca/cultureofrespect.html)

- Recognition of Mi'kmaq Territory
  Dalhousie University acknowledges that the University is located on Traditional Mi'kmaq Territory.

University Policies and Programs

- Important Dates in the Academic Year (including add/drop dates) http://www.dal.ca/academics/important_dates.html
- University Grading Practices: Statement of Principles and Procedures https://www.dal.ca/dept/university_secretariat/policies/academic/grading-practices-policy.html
- Scent-Free Program http://www.dal.ca/dept/safety/programs-services/occupational-safety/scent-free.html

Physical Geography ERTH/GEOG 1030 DISTANCE. Winter 2020.

The recommended schedule shown below provides a consistent pacing that leads to completion of the class by the formal end of the semester on April 6th. However, this is a self-paced course so your schedule may differ from what is shown as long as all your assignments are completed by 11:59pm April 25. There is no penalty for late submission of assignments as long as submission is by the July 26 .

The exam schedule will be released by the Registrar by early February.

Week	Module	Mastering Study Area, Etext chapter	Assignments	
			Reading Questions	Homework
Jan 8	*Intro to Mastering (marked but not included in course grade)*			
Jan 9 Jan 13	*1. Essentials of Geography* *2. Water and Atmospheric Moisture*	Ch 1 Ch 7	1.RQ Essentials.. Ch 1 2.RQ Water.. Ch 7	1.HW Essentials... Ch 1 2.HW Water... Ch 7
Jan 20 Jan 27	*3. Weather* *4. Water Resources*	Ch 8 Ch 9	3.RQ Weather.. Ch 8 4. RQ Water .. Ch 9	3.HW Weather.. Ch 8 4. HW Water .. Ch 9
Feb 3 Feb 10	*5. Global Climate Systems* *6. Climate Change*	Ch 10 Ch 11	5.RQ Global .. Ch 10 6.RQ Climate .. Ch 11	5.HW Global .. Ch 10 6.HW Climate .. Ch 11
Feb 24 Mar 2	*7. Dynamic Planet* *8. Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanism*	Ch 12 Ch 13	7.RQ Dynamic.. Ch 12 8.RQ Tectonic.. Ch 13	7.HW Dynamic.. Ch 12 8.HW Tectonic.. Ch 13
Mar 9 Mar 16	*9. Weathering, Karst, Mass Movement* *10. River Systems*	Ch 14 Ch 15	9.RQ Weathering.. Ch 14 10.RQ River.. Ch 15	9.HW Weathering.. Ch 14 10.HW River.. Ch 15
Mar 23 Mar 30	*11. Oceans, Coasts, Winds* *12. Glaciers and Periglacial Landscapes*	Ch 16 Ch 17	11.RQ Oceans.. Ch 16 12.RQ Glaciers.. Ch 17	11.HW Oceans.. Ch 16 12.HW Glaciers.. Ch 17
Apr 6	*13. Soils*	Ch 18	13.RQ Soils Ch 18	13.HW Soils Ch 18
	3H EXAM at Dalhousie during exam period			
April 25	All assignments must be submitted by this date.			